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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-first session

Observer status for the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute in the General Assembly

Note verbale dated 21 July 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute in the General Assembly".

The Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute is an intergovernmental institution whose objective is the enhancement of international cooperation through the transfer of sustainable technology, especially in the field of food security and water sanitation, in addition to applied scientific research and inter-university coordination.

Its subsidiary, the Intergovernmental Spirulina Programme (in extenso Intergovernmental Institution for the Use of Micro-alga Spirulina against Malnutrition), focused on the use of algal biomasses to combat food crisis, was granted observer status with the Economic and Social Council and its functional bodies and commissions by Council decision 2003/212 of 5 March 2003.

According to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I) on the nature of the Institute and a related draft resolution (annex II) are attached to the present letter.

The Permanent Mission of Iraq has further the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

The Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute (CISRI) is an intergovernmental organization set up by multilateral agreement, namely the Free Agreement for Cooperation in Scientific Research and Humanitarian Use of Micro-alga Spirulina as Food.

The Agreement has been duly signed by a number of countries, including Benin, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Italy, Madagascar and Sao Tome and Principe, and agreed to by the Dominican Republic and Somalia and a number of intergovernmental organizations, and it has been registered with the United Nations *Treaty Series* pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Since the inception of its activity the organization has established, especially through its subsidiary Spirulina programme, a wide series of operational contacts with numerous Governments, intergovernmental organizations such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and several United Nations specialized bodies.

The structure of CISRI comprises a secretariat with executive functions, a General Council with coordinative responsibility and a subsidiary programme, the Intergovernmental Institution for the Use of Micro-alga Spirulina against Malnutrition (Intergovernmental Spirulina Programme).

The subsidiary programme was granted observer status with the Economic and Social Council and its functional bodies and commissions by Council decision 2003/212 of 5 March 2003, in view of the interest stimulated by its specific technical competence. It advocates for food micro-algae (especially *Spirulina platensis*, which is very rich in proteins, vitamins and macro-nutrients) to be added to ordinary food and enhance nutritional security in least developed countries, and promotes the utilization of new protein and vitamin sources.

That programme represents an important activity of the CISRI organization and it is directly administered by the CISRI secretariat, thus possessing operational autonomy. The CISRI secretariat, in fact, has overall competence over the internal subsidiary bodies and related commissions, such as the Commission for Sustainable Development and the Commission for Renewable Fuels, and has the function of a monitoring platform for integrating and harmonizing the various activities in the field of international cooperation, appropriate technologies and scientific research and for ensuring the relevant transfer of technical skills and competences to the member States, through the utilization of information technology and communication of the highest standards.

For the purpose of achieving the optimal level of effectiveness and interaction with the United Nations and allowing CISRI to contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through the work of a Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations, it would be appropriate to consolidate the relationship between CISRI and the General Assembly on a structured and regular base.

The granting of observer status would undoubtedly contribute to that aim, also promoting a more efficient and flexible diffusion of appropriate technologies and sustainable research throughout the States Members of the United Nations.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute,

1. *Decides* to invite the Collaborative Intergovernmental Scientific Research Institute to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.